People to be benefited under NREG Scheme

†* 112. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have started the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and if so, the number of targeted people who would be benefited every year and the amount required for the same;

(b) whether creation of permanent assets and basic infrastructure works is possible keeping the proportion of wages and cost of materials; and

(c) the details regarding the system of implementing, monitoring and controlling the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005 has been notified in the Gazette of India on 7th September, 2005. The notification for applicability of the Act is yet to be issued under Section 1 (3) of the Act. About 1.7 crore households are likely to be benefited in the first phase of implementation of the scheme and the funds required ' are estimated to be of the order of Rs. 17,103 crore for 200 districts. About 4.96 crore households are likely to be benefited with an estimated expenditure of about Rs. 49,600 crore per year when the scheme is extended to cover the remaining districts within a period of five years.

(b) Yes, Sir. Creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor shall be an important objective of the Scheme made under the Act.

(c) The Panchayats at district, inter-mediate and village levels shall be the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the Schemes made under the Act. The duties of Panchayats at various levels, District Programme Coordinator, Programme Officer and Gram Panchayats have been defined in Section 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Act respectively. The Social audit of work shall be done by the Gram Sabha as per the provisions of Section 17 of the Act..

Indo-UK trade

*113.SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: (a) whether India-UK joint economic and trade committee would function

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

as a key mechanism for strengthening trade and economic co-operation between the two countries;

(b) if so, the whether during meeting with UK representatives the Commerce and Industry Minister felt that joint economic and trade committee must be used as an effective tool to promote India-UK partnership;

(c) whether UK is the second largest investor in India and has a bilateral trade worth 5 billion dollar per annum and attracts 60% of all Indian investment into Europe;

(d) if so, to what extent both India and U.K. have taken steps to improve further trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH):(a)Yes,Sir.

(b) At the first meeting of the India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO), held in January 2005, at the Ministerial level, the Ministers *inter alia* welcomed the establishment of the JETCO which would fill a gap in the institutional architecture for enhancing bilateral trade and investment.

(c) UK is the fifth largest investor in India in terms of Foreign Direct Investment inflows. Into-UK bilateal trade was about US$7 billion in the year 2004-2005. As the per available information, approved Indian investment in the UK upto November 2004 is a little less than half of approved Indian investment in EU countries.

(d) The first meeting of JETCO identified certain key areas for increased trade and investment such as agriculture, healthcare, infrastructure (including energy), services and knowledge based industries (including research and development). It is the constant endeavour of the Government to enhance bilateral trade with the countries of Europe, including UK. The steps taken by the Government in this regard include encouraging and facilitating direct business level contacts, participation in trade promotion activities, exchange of delegations, disseminating trade related information through apex trade and industry organizations and other relevant bodies, etc. An Indo-British Partnership at the industry level has also been set-up to improve trade and economic cooperation.